

# MHawaii MARINE

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 43

THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD WINNING METRO FORMAT NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 9, 2007



Training  
A-3



Hidden gem  
B-1



Sports  
C-1



Pfc. Achilles Tsantarliotis

Lance Cpl. Christopher Young reenacts Marine Corps history during the Marine Corps birthday pageant Thursday. The pageant featured Marines and Sailors in attire from conflicts ranging from the birth of the Corps to today. See next week's edition for more on the pageant and the Marine Corps birthday.

## Corps celebrates 232 years

**Ken Griffin**

Managing Editor

On behalf of base leaders and the public affairs office, happy 232nd birthday, Marines.

During the last year, Marines continued to play a crucial and evolving role in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and other operations around the globe.

Units from Marine Corps Base Hawaii continuously helped set the standard at home and in combat, from Anderson Hall being "best chow hall in the Marine Corps" to several units' participation in turning al Anbar province into a model for the rest of Iraq.

Third Marine Regiment's battalions, Marine Aircraft Group 24 units and more helped turn around an entire

province that had been deemed "hopeless," and that's just one of many things these and all MCBH units can be proud of this year.

First Battalion, 12th Marines, made history by deploying as an entire battalion for the first time since the Vietnam conflict. The battalion's Marines served outside their occupational specialties as part of Task Force Military Police.

Whether in garrison or downrange, November is a time for Marines to reflect on the past and look toward the future.

"It is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history." - Gen. John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

## Thanksgiving hike



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Marines from Headquarters and Service Battalion prepare to stop at the base Chapel during a 4.8 mile hike to deliver non-perishable food for the Thanksgiving can food drive Thursday. See next week's issue of the *Hawaii Marine* for the full story.

## MCBH Tax Center slated to open for new tax season

**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**

Combat Correspondent

The beginning of a new year always brings around a few guaranteed things: New Year's resolutions, a pay increase and

another tax season.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii's tax center is slated to open Jan. 14 to help service members file state and federal taxes, free of charge.

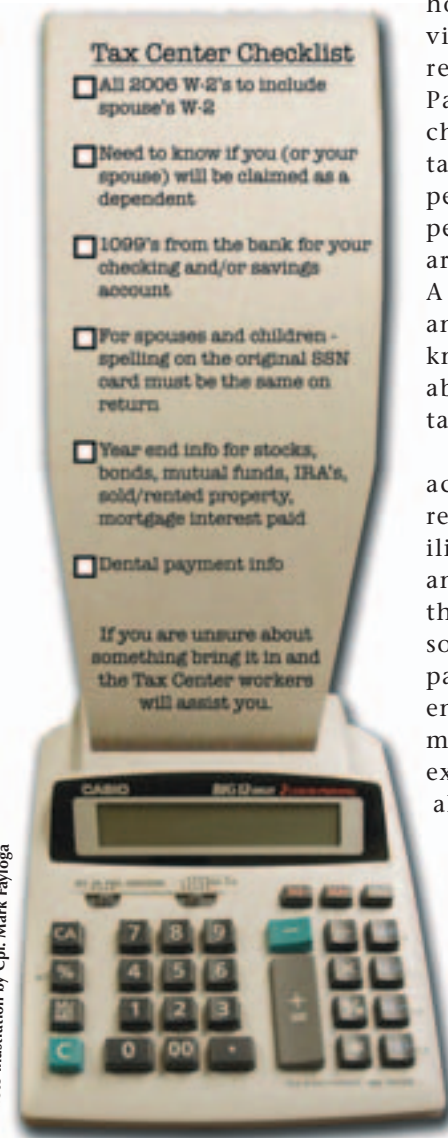
"A lot of people don't know how to do their taxes, so we provide the service so they can relax," said Gunnery Sgt. Patricia White, officer-in-charge, tax center, legal assistance office. "We can save those people money and give them the peace of mind that their taxes are being taken care of correctly. A lot of service members deploy, and it's important for them to know they don't have to worry about their families filing taxes."

The tax center is open for all active duty service members, reservists, retirees and their families. Customers can either make an appointment or walk in to the center. Photo identification, social security cards for the taxpayer, their spouse and dependents, and other relevant information about income and expenses are important to bring along.

"A lot of Marines who come in don't remember to bring their wage and earning statements," White said. "We have to send them home and then they have to come back another time. It's important to make sure you have all

See TAX, A-6

Photo illustration by Cpl. Mark Fayloga



## 'Sailor-2-Sailor' sponsorship sends gift packages, letters

**Story and Photos by Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard**

Combat Correspondent

Socks, canned tuna, baby wipes and chocolate. We often take these items for granted while in garrison.

Deployed service members know all too well how scarce these items can become while overseas, and are thankful to receive such gifts when they're away from home for months at a time.

"When myself and other

people from the clinic were deployed, we were sent packages from a program called 'Adopt an Angel,'" said Petty Officer 2nd Class Lorch Toloumu, a corpsman at Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Medical Clinic. "We would receive letters, pictures and packaged goods from strangers around the United States, which we really appreciated. It made our time deployed go by much more quickly."

He said receiving letters from people he didn't know

helped give him the idea to start the program 'Sailor-2-Sailor.'

"We thought that it would mean a lot more if our deployed Sailors received packages and letters from their own clinic, from people who know them and work with them," Toloumu said.

Toloumu knew even if he hadn't been a part of "Adopt an Angel," he would've gotten packages from his own family. He realized this isn't the case for many of his single Sailors and wanted to pro-

vide something for them while they're away from home.

"We put an e-mail out through our command letting our staff at the clinic know they could adopt Sailors by agreeing to send them one or two packages and letters each month," Toloumu said. "We've already had a big interest in the program. Numerous sponsors have adopted our two currently deployed Sailors, and have already sent them letters and packages."

By creating a smaller, more personal program, Toloumu hopes to connect his deployed Sailors with their brothers and sisters and make them feel connected to everyone back home. He hopes the sponsorship will provide a potential mode of communication to the entire command about the well-being of the deployed Sailors.

"I've never been deployed, but I have friends who have been," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer Gallardo, lab technician at the clinic.

"They said that getting letters and goodies from friends and co-workers really boosts morale when they're away from home for such a long time. That's why I got involved with this program."

She said the Sailors appreciate having small boxes sent to them so they don't have excessive gear to carry in their seabag.

Civilian co-workers at the clinic are also getting involved.

See PACKAGES, A-6



— NEWS BRIEFS —

Road Closure on Base

Manning Road is closed between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. now through Nov. 21, and Lawrence Road will close Monday to Nov. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please plan your routes accordingly and allow additional time to get to your destination.

Detour signs will facilitate access to Klipper Villas, SNCO Club and Klipper Golf Course.

Civil War Expert to Hold Discussion

Renowned civil war historian and History Channel featured guest Ed Bears is holding a round table dinner and discussion at the Hale Koa Hotel Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

The topic is the Battle of Franklin, Tenn., "Five Tragic Hours." The event is open to the public and costs \$28, which includes dinner.

For more information or to make reservations, call Damian Paul at 261-8663 or e-mail [damianpaul@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:damianpaul@hawaii.rr.com).

Marines Needed for Recruiter Assistance

Want an opportunity to earn promotion points and spend up to 30 days at home without taking leave? Fourth Marine Corps District is looking for motivated Marines to serve as recruiter assistants.

For more information about the recruiter assistance program, contact your recruiter or log onto <http://www.4mcd.usmc.mil/PTAD.asp> for a map of the Fourth District area and the point of contact for your hometown.

Runway incursions

Runway incursions continue to be a problem aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Violations involving runway incursions will now result in a mandatory magistrate hearing with a maximum punishment of 12 points and up to one-year suspension of driving privileges.

No Solicitation

According the Base Order P5500.1B, Chapter 2, page 2-3, the use of vehicle decals to gain access to Marine Corps Base Hawaii for the use of soliciting for a commercial activity is prohibited. It also states that door-to-door solicitation in family housing or bachelor quarters is prohibited without written approval from the commanding general.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters

*Hawaii Marine* invites its readers to e-mail its editor at [hmeditor@hawaiimarine.com](mailto:hmeditor@hawaiimarine.com) with their comments and letters.

All submissions will be edited for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number.

*Hawaii Marine* also accepts news briefs containing relevant information pertaining to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

# Happy Birthday, America’s shock troops



**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**  
*Combat Correspondent*

*“There are only two kinds of people that understand Marines: Marines and the enemy. Everyone else has a secondhand opinion.”*

Gen. William Thomson,  
U.S. Army

Devil dogs. Leathernecks. The Few. The Proud. United States Marines have many names, but they all represent one thing - the finest fighting force in the world.

Saturday marks the 232nd birthday of the United States

Marine Corps, and with that comes countless birthday balls, memorial ceremonies, and celebrations by every Marine, young and old, who has served our great nation.

I remember my favorite drill instructor telling my platoon about the Marine Corps birthday. It became a favorite moment among my platoon. She was obviously so proud of her service and of being able to take part in the traditions of the Corps for the past nine years. She told us she had attended every ball since she’d been in the Marine Corps, sometimes “just going for the cake,” she said. “I like cake.”

This is my second Marine Corps birthday. Last year I was a 10-day-old lance corporal at the Defense Information School, Fort Meade, Md., for my military occupational specialty school. I attended a ball involving more than 80 Marines who had never seen the fleet, mixed with Marines who had returned from the fleet for more training. Here we were, “boots,” “motivated as all heck, excited to participate in one of the honored traditions of our beloved Corps.

Fast forward to me being in the fleet. It seems Marines remember

all the “oorah-tastic” motivational stuff they learned in boot camp, but the magic has faded. It seems around early November the motivation somehow finds its way back into the Marines’ blood and finds a way of giving them a temporary Semper high.

My question is, why is it only around the birthday that we, as Marines, remember where we came from? Sure, we can all recite “Birthday of the Marine Corps: Nov. 10, 1775” or “Five Navy Crosses: Chesty Puller,” but it’s like reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance.” How many of us really listen to the words coming out of our jaded little mouths and appreciate the history, honor and tradition behind them?

After a little reflection, I’ve come to realize how amazing all of this really is. The Corps is a long-standing family, and it influences Marines, past, present and future, their families, their friends, every life they’ve touched. From the children who receive donations from “Toys-for-Tots,” to the mothers who lose their children, from the wife who spends Christmas alone to the younger siblings who brag to their friends about their

Marine, the Corps puts a footprint in the heart of everyone connected.

Not honoring the proud traditions of the Corps is like forgetting your family’s lineage. Not celebrating the Marine Corps birthday is like forgetting your own. Whether you serve proudly or if you rue the day you signed the dotted line, you’re a Marine, and no one can strip you of that title or dislodge you from the traditions you’re part of making.

This Marine Corps birthday, pull out that old boot camp yearbook, put on the Marine Corps ring you know you ordered while you were a motivated devil pup and remember where you began. Try to understand the amazing truth, Marines and their families around the entire world are celebrating the same thing, be it with a ball and a cake, or a rifle and a Meal, Ready to Eat.

*“Marines die. That’s what we’re here for. But the Marine Corps lives forever, and that means YOU live forever.”*

Gunnery Sgt. Hartman (played by GySgt. R. Lee Erney)  
“Full Metal Jacket”

## In the alley of the shadow of death



Private First Class Jesse Elizardo, vehicle operator, Jump Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, patrols a mock Iraqi alley during an Urban Assault Course lane training exercise Nov. 5 at Range 111 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. For more information on Jump Platoon participating in the Urban Assault Course, check out next week’s edition of the *Hawaii Marine*.

# Great American Smokeout Nov. 15

**News Release**  
*Naval Health Clinic Hawaii*

It’s not easy to quit smoking and there are many ways to kick the habit. Some people find success going “cold turkey” by taking part in American Cancer Society’s Great American Smokeout (GASO) on Thursday, Nov. 15. To mark the event, the Health Promotion Department at Naval Health Clinic Hawaii encourages everyone to participate in the Puff/Dip or Cold Turkey Walk for

a Mile at Makalapa Branch Health Clinic between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. or the Kaneohe Bay Branch Health Clinic between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. on Thursday. Participants will walk a mile and receive an opportunity ticket for a prize. Smokers can also sign a pledge form to live a smoke-free life.

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii offers a Tobacco Cessation Program for military beneficiaries. For more information on group meetings, contact the Naval

Health Clinic Hawaii’s Health Promotion Department at 473-1880, ext. 2282.

The American Cancer Society suggests the following tips to help smokers get through the day, or any day, without tobacco.

Prepare for life as nonsmoker by removing all cigarette-related material from your home and office—it will help avoid temptation.

Smoking urges are worst in the first two weeks, after that they are most likely to recur in situations

associated with smoking.

Try to avoid situations that encourage smoking. If you can, practice telling people you’ve just quit or that you’re a non-smoker.

Change your routine. If you always have a cigarette with your coffee, drink tea or juice instead. If you always smoke while watching the evening news, read the paper.

Use the many tools available such as tobacco cessation classes and tobacco cessation medications.

## Hawaii MARINE

[www.mcbh.usmc.mil](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil)

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Submit items for *Hawaii Marine* to the managing editor no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the following address:

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## Weekend weather outlook

Today	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Day</b> — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. East wind around 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.	<b>Day</b> — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. East wind around 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.	<b>Day</b> — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. East wind around 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.
<b>Night</b> — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.	<b>Night</b> — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.	<b>Night</b> — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71. East wind around 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.
<b>High — 82</b>	<b>High — 81</b>	<b>High — 81</b>
<b>Low — 71</b>	<b>Low — 71</b>	<b>Low — 71</b>





Corporal Eric S. Fisher, Tube-launched Optically-tracked Wire-guided gunner, 2nd Platoon, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, instructs Marines on proper use and handling of the Anti-tank Rocket 4 during an AT-4 and M203 Grenade Launcher live fire exercise Nov. 2 at Range 104 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

# ROCK and Launch

## Island Warriors' Weapons Company rock out with AT-4, M203 live fire exercise

**Story and Photos by  
Cpl. Mark Fayloga**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.** — Capable of covering 250 meters in less than a second, penetrating up to 14 inches of armor and weighing in at just less than 15 pounds the M136 Anti-tank Rocket 4 is an impressive weapon. The M203 Grenade Launcher isn't too shabby either, and fortunately both are part of the arsenal Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, is training with and taking to combat.

Taking advantage of the training facilities here, approximately 20 Marines from Wpns. Co. conducted an AT-4 and M203 live fire exercise Nov. 2 at Range 104 to better familiarize themselves with the weapons in preparation for their future Iraq deployment.

"We don't get to fire the 203 very often, and we never get to fire the AT-4," said 1st Lt. Christopher S. Murdock, platoon commander, 2nd Platoon, Wpns. Co., 2/3.

But thanks to training at exercises like Lava Viper and Mojave Viper, Murdock's Marines get a chance to put steel on target, hit or miss.

Neither the AT-4 or M203 are normally primary weapons for the company's Devil Dogs, but due to the new roles they're finding themselves filling in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, they're dealing with them more, said Staff Sgt. David A. Cleaves, platoon sergeant, 2nd Platoon.

During the exercise, Marines fired six AT-4s, going from a cold position under cover to a hot position where they engaged the enemy.

Marines only briefly learn about the AT-4 at the School of Infantry, so they were glad to get their hands on the weapon again,

according to Pfc. Dustin T. Starkweather, assaultman, 3rd Platoon, Wpns. Co.

"I think it's one of the most fun things I've done so far. I love going to the range with anything that goes boom," he said.

The Marines also got the opportunity to fire approximately 20 training rounds and 15 High Explosive rounds with their M203, which helped them build their skills with the weapon and work with their new PSQ-18 sighting systems. Having live HE rounds was one of the training's biggest advantages.

"With HE rounds the Marines can actually see what kind of destruction the weapon is capable of, instead of the [training] rounds which just mark the target with paint," Cleaves said. "They'll be able to see the repercussions of an HE round and be more familiar of what their weapon is capable of."

For many of the Marines the exercise was just the second time they trained with these weapons, the first being at Lava Viper Exercise at Pohakuloa Training Area.

"We get two opportunities to do this type of training prior to deploying so we need to take advantage of it, and we did," Murdock said. "I saw a lot of improvement among the Marines from when we fired at PTA."

For one Marine in particular, who had only once worked with the M203, the training was especially helpful.

"I did much better than when I was at PTA," said Pfc. Lestar A. Torres, mortarman, 3rd Platoon, Wpns. Co. "At PTA it was pretty awkward and we were working with a new sight, but here I had more time with it. Lieutenant Murdock helped me out with adjusting my sights and getting accustomed to the weapon, because it's too big for me; it's



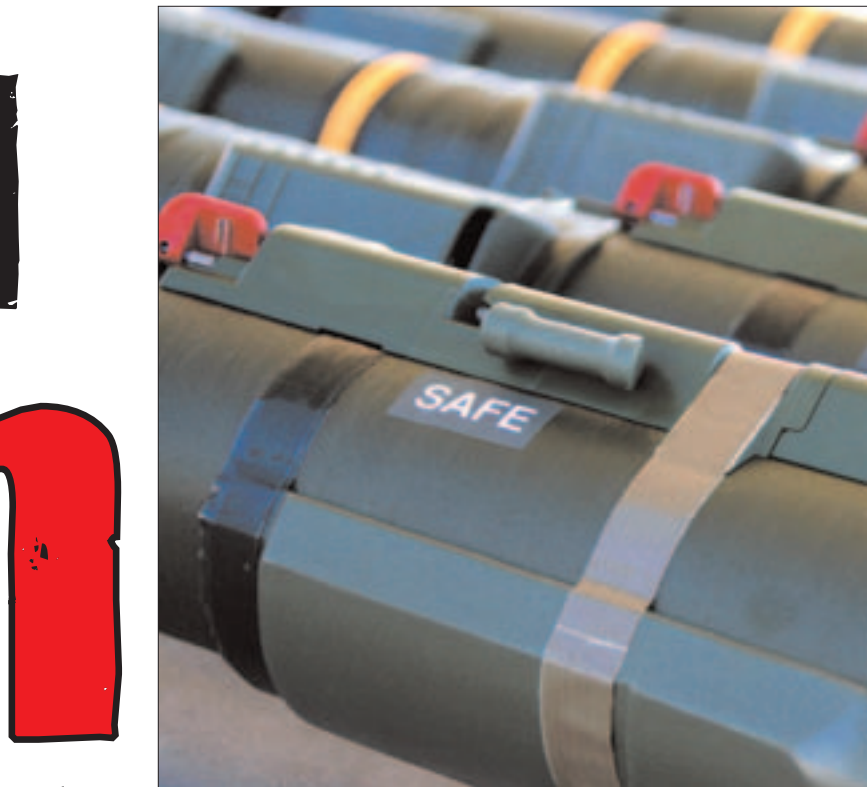
Corporal John G. Wentz, platoon leader, 4th Platoon, Weapons Company, 2/3, fires a 40mm training round downrange during an AT-4 and M203 live fire exercise Nov. 2 at Range 104 aboard MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

more difficult to get a good position. I feel much more comfortable with it now."

Although the likelihood of the Island Warriors using the AT-4 or M203 during their deployment is low, according to Cleaves, they still feel the training is important.

"We don't foresee frequent use with the AT-4 because our mission isn't of an aggressive nature," Cleaves said. "However being familiar with the weapon is important because you never know what you'll need to be ready for."

"Are we going to use the 203? Probably not," said Murdock. "But, the ability to employ it if necessary is important."



Due to the lack of ranges on Hawaii that allow the use of high explosive rounds, the Marines from Weapons Company rarely get the opportunity to train with the AT-4, which is why the day's training was so important, according to Staff Sgt. David A. Cleaves, platoon sergeant, 2nd Platoon, Weapons Company, 2/3.



A High Explosive Dual Purpose 40mm round impacts a target at Range 104 aboard MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, Calif. Nov. 2.





Lance Corporals John Banta, T.J. Cothran and Matthew Reno received quilts from the Quilters of Eastern Washington State after sustaining injuries in combat operations in Iraq.

# Quilts help mend minds as time mends bodies

**Story and Photo by  
Sgt. Scott Whittington**

*U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific*

In the 11th century, quilting was used to hold padding under warriors’ armor. Today’s warriors don’t use quilts on the battlefield, but the stitched cloths can often be iconic symbols of home.

A group of eight women from the Quilters of Eastern Washington State and Gayle Goodman recently visited the Wounded Warrior Barracks here. They presented three handmade quilts to three Marines who’ve recently returned from combat. All three were injured in Iraq and are either waiting to return to their unit or go home for good.

“They recognized the sacrifices made by our young Marines, and they wanted to do something

that very visibly demonstrated their appreciation to our wounded Marines,” Goodman said about the quilters.

All the quilters are connected to the military through family ties or their own service.

“It’s good to know we have a lot of supporters out there,” said Lance Cpl. Matthew Reno, a Houston native and quilt recipient. “It was really nice of those ladies to do this.”

To make one of these 70”x 90” quilts takes a bit of time. These ladies spent several sessions of four to six hours sewing the quilt scraps together. That’s just to finish one side. There’s still the filler fabric and backing fabric, which takes a specialized sewing machine with a long arm and a few more hours to bring it all together, according to Goodman.

“I appreciate the time they took to make these quilts for us,” said Lance Cpl. T.J. Cothran, a New

Orleans native and quilt recipient. “I’m very thankful for their support.”

These supportive ladies made five more quilts, which are on their way to the island, but Hawaii Quilters have donated more than 35 to the Wounded Warriors. Every bed in the barracks has a quilt draped over it.

These quilts should stay in good shape for a long time, according to Goodman.

“They are washable and will last for at least 100 years,” she said.

A century down the road, Marines may still be fighting for freedom and those futuristic Marines will have quilts on their racks as long as quilters like these keep up the tradition.

“We are so fortunate that the quilters throughout the U.S. have made a difference for our wounded service men and women,” Goodman said.

## FINRA Investor Education Foundation to offer free financial forum here

**News Release**  
*FINRA Investor Education Foundation*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The FINRA Investor Education Foundation is hosting a free financial education forum aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, in partnership with Marine & Family Services Nov. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to noon to help military personnel and their families make prudent financial decisions and reach their financial goals.

FINRA, created in July 2007 by the consolidation of NASD and New York Stock Exchange Member Regulation, is the largest non-governmental regulator in the United States. One important FINRA mission is to protect investors through education. To that end, FINRA created the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, the largest foundation of its kind supporting innovative research and educational projects to help investors better understand the markets and the basic principles of saving and investing.

The event is open to all military ID card holders and their spouses. Attendees will learn about debt and credit management, the pitfalls of payday loans, saving for a child's college tuition and strategies for retirement planning.

Industry experts, including John M. Gannon, executive director, FINRA Investor Education Foundation, will provide guidance on the fundamental principles of saving and investing and highlight free tools and resources, such as the FINRA Foundation's comprehensive online Web site <http://www.SaveAndInvest.org> designed to help servicemembers and their spouses become better informed. Seminars include: Smart Credit Management; Avoid the Predatory Loan Trap; Mutual Funds, 529 Plans and More; and Smart Saving for Retirement.

"From deployments to permanent change of station moves, service members and their families are faced with a unique set of challenges when working to keep their financial houses in order," Gannon said. "Our forums seek to arm them with the critical information and education they need to better inform their financial decisions and help them manage their money with confidence."

A recent FINRA Foundation survey showed only 29 percent of military personnel who currently invest received a passing grade on a quiz about basic financial knowledge. However, 58 percent of survey respondents said it was very important to them to be more knowledgeable about saving and investing.

While the forum is free, registration is encouraged. Those who wish to register may do so online at <http://www.SaveAndInvest.org> or call (808) 257-7790 or (808) 257-7787.





# Corps makes education, transition easy

**Story and Photo by  
Pfc. Achilles Tsantarliotis**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Whether a Marine’s career lasts four or twenty years, one thing is certain: it won’t last forever.

Fortunately, the Marine Corps offers various tools, like 100 percent tuition assistance and transition programs, to help Marines move forward and avoid getting stuck in undesirable jobs.

The title “Marine” already sets applicants apart from civilians, but a college education will help you be a top competitor in the job market.

“Getting a degree opens doors that would have otherwise remained closed,” said Bill Lowe, education service specialist, Joint Education Center. “As much as we want knowledgeable service members, it’s the same in a career as a civilian.”

Marines can take college classes here with 100 percent tuition assistance, giving them a feel for what to expect at school while accumulating credits toward a degree.

“I’d fully understood how generous and beneficial the Marine Corps education benefits were while I was active duty,” said Ken Griffin, a civilian worker on base. “[When I was in] I had other priorities;

now I look back at things like 100 percent tuition assistance and kick myself for not fully taking advantage of it.”

Education specialists recommend Marines who haven’t been in a classroom environment to start with one or two courses in their stronger subjects to redevelop study habits.

“When people come in, we’ll ask them their strengths and start them off with a course in that area to get them comfortable with studying and getting back in the school mindset,” Lowe said. “We want them to be successful, and we’ll do whatever we can to help them.”

There are a variety of options and opportunities to accommodate even the busiest of Marines, because, while work obligations take precedence, determination will prevail in the pursuit of success, Lowe said.

The mandatory Transition Assistance Program Marines attend gives counseling on entitlements and benefits to further assist them when they finish their enlistment, said Jeff Esposito, TAP counselor.

“The TAP program helps with getting a career as a civilian by helping with resumes, cover letters or federal applications,” Esposito said. “Family services also augments the TAP



**Craig Lockwood, education specialist, counsels an applicant about educational oppurtunities at the Joint Education Center.**

program by offering classes on interviewing skills and resume workshops. We have a lot of tools to help Marines succeed when they transition.”

While many Marines have their futures mapped out, some obviously have no idea what they’d like to do. These tools help better prepare them, whether everything goes according to plan or not.

“I know Marines who haven’t done anything of substance since they left the Corps,” said Griffin, a former infantryman and public affairs Marine who completed his last

enlistment in 2004. “I also know Marines who are making six figures and setting the bar for their coworkers in a variety of fields. It really comes down to the drive in the individual, but those are the ones who usually take advantage of the multiple resources the Marine Corps has to offer.”

With the options and opportunities afforded to Marines to use as a tool for self-improvement, it’s up to the individual to take charge and begin their demanding yet worthy quest for success.

# Flu shots available for military ID card holders

**Ed Keating**

*Hawaii Multi-Service Market Management Office*

The Joint Public Health Working Group, in coordination with the O’ahu military treatment facilities, has scheduled community flu shots for eligible Department of Defense beneficiaries in preparation for the 2007/2008 influenza season.

Flu shots for active duty personnel are coordinated through their individual commands. Community flu shots will be available between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. as follows:

Friday, Nov. 30	NEX, Pearl Harbor
Saturday, Dec. 1	NEX, Pearl Harbor
Friday, Dec. 7	NEX, Pearl Harbor
Saturday, Dec. 8	Schofield Barracks PX
Friday, Dec. 14	Hickam AFB BX
Saturday, Dec. 15	Kaneohe Bay Commissary

All TRICARE beneficiaries (Prime, Standard, TRICARE for Life) are encouraged to receive flu shots at any of the military community locations. DoD-issued identification cards will be required to verify eligibility.

Beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Prime are reminded flu shots are a Clinical Preventive Service benefit. Claims for Prime beneficiaries who seek flu shots from non-network civilian providers (for example, at a local grocery or drug store) will be paid under point of service. Some grocery/drug store flu shot clinics are run by TRICARE certified providers, but most are not.

TRICARE for Life (TFL) beneficiaries may get flu shots administered in any of the civilian settings since Medicare will cover the cost for those age 65 and over with Medicare Part B entitlement. This is important because TFL beneficiaries are typically in a high-risk category for flu based on age and other health conditions.

They are encouraged to get their flu shot as soon as possible using their Medicare entitlement, especially if they will be unavailable during or anticipate air travel prior to the community dates.

## A job well done ...



Colonel Duffy White, commanding officer, 3rd Marine Regiment, presents Lt. Cmdr. Kent Hendricks and Naval Facilities Engineering Command with a letter of appreciation at the opening of the new 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment headquarters building Nov. 1. The battalion returned from a recent Iraq deployment to a newly renovated headquarters, and NAVFAC was instrumental in the renovation.







# AROUND THE CORPS

## Nurses, corpsmen prepare for in-flight care missions

**Story and Photos by  
Cpl. Bryan A. Peterson**

*MCB Camp Butler*

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA, OKINAWA, Japan** — When a service member’s wounds require care beyond the capabilities of frontline surgical facilities, medical evacuation to a higher level of care is the next step. But seriously wounded troops can’t just be handed off to a helicopter crew like a football to a running back.

In-flight care is a necessity for such evacuations, which is why military medical personnel accompany critically wounded troops flown from frontline surgical rooms, known as Forward Resuscitative Surgery Systems, to larger medical facilities.

The Navy calls the procedure the Naval En Route Care System and has invested a lot of training time in making sure nurses and corpsmen, who might be called upon to serve as in-flight care providers, are ready for the mission.

Stateside-based instructors with the Naval En Route Care Mobile Team provided in-flight care training for 15 nurses and 30 corpsmen with 3rd Marine Logistics Group’s 3rd Medical Battalion Oct. 23-25.

The team sought to prepare the Sailors to support Marine helicopter crews in the event they are called upon for medevac missions. The task of medically evacuating service members to higher care falls primarily on the Army, according to Navy Lt. Cmdr. Tony P. Catanese, the assistant director of Medical Lessons Learned, Naval Operations Medical Institute in Pensacola, Fla., and an instructor with the team.

However, in some cases, Marine helicopters in the vicinity of Forward Resuscitative Surgery Systems are tapped for medevac missions, an occurrence known in the Navy as a “flight of opportunity.”



**Third Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, nurses and corpsmen carry a mannequin, simulating a critically injured Marine, Oct. 25 on to a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, from Oct. 23 through 25.**

But Marine crews providing flights of opportunity lack the committed in-flight care provider that Army medevac crews have, which is why the training is necessary for nurses and corpsmen, according to Navy Lt. Ronald L. Bolen, an instructor with the team.

“What if a Marine helicopter is on its way back from a re-supply mission and is in the area?” Bolen asked. “If that’s the case, not only the nurse, but a corpsman needs to be ready to go with that injured Marine.”

The team taught the Sailors about physiological issues they might face in flight, such as how a

helicopter’s altitude and movements can affect a patient, as well as how to care for patients with amputations, trauma or spinal injuries.

The nurses and corpsmen also learned how to use ERCS equipment, such as the Special Medical Emergency Evacuation Device – a framed stretcher that holds medical equipment necessary to sustain a patient’s life, such as oxygen tanks and ventilators. They used mannequins to practice safely loading and unloading patients to and from CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters.

The course culminated with instructors testing the Sailors’

knowledge and proficiency during scenario training as helicopters from 1st Marine Aircraft Wing’s Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 flew the students from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Landing Zone Dodo in the Central Training Area.

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Anthony Ingeraham, a hospital corpsman with the battalion, said he felt the training was very valuable.

“This was a great experience,” Ingeraham said. “I came in here with a general idea of what [ERCS] was all about, but I left a better corpsman.”

Completion of the course is

only the beginning of the training required to be fully qualified as an ERC provider, according to Catanese. The Sailors must complete more extensive training at the U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine at Fort Rucker, Ala., as well as helicopter egress training.

Catanese said the training is tough and a lot to take in, but a Marine’s life falls in the hands of the nurse and corpsman accompanying him.

“If that flight of opportunity comes around,” Catanese said, “it’s just a nurse and corpsman doing anything they can to make sure that critically injured Marine stays alive from point A to point B.”